

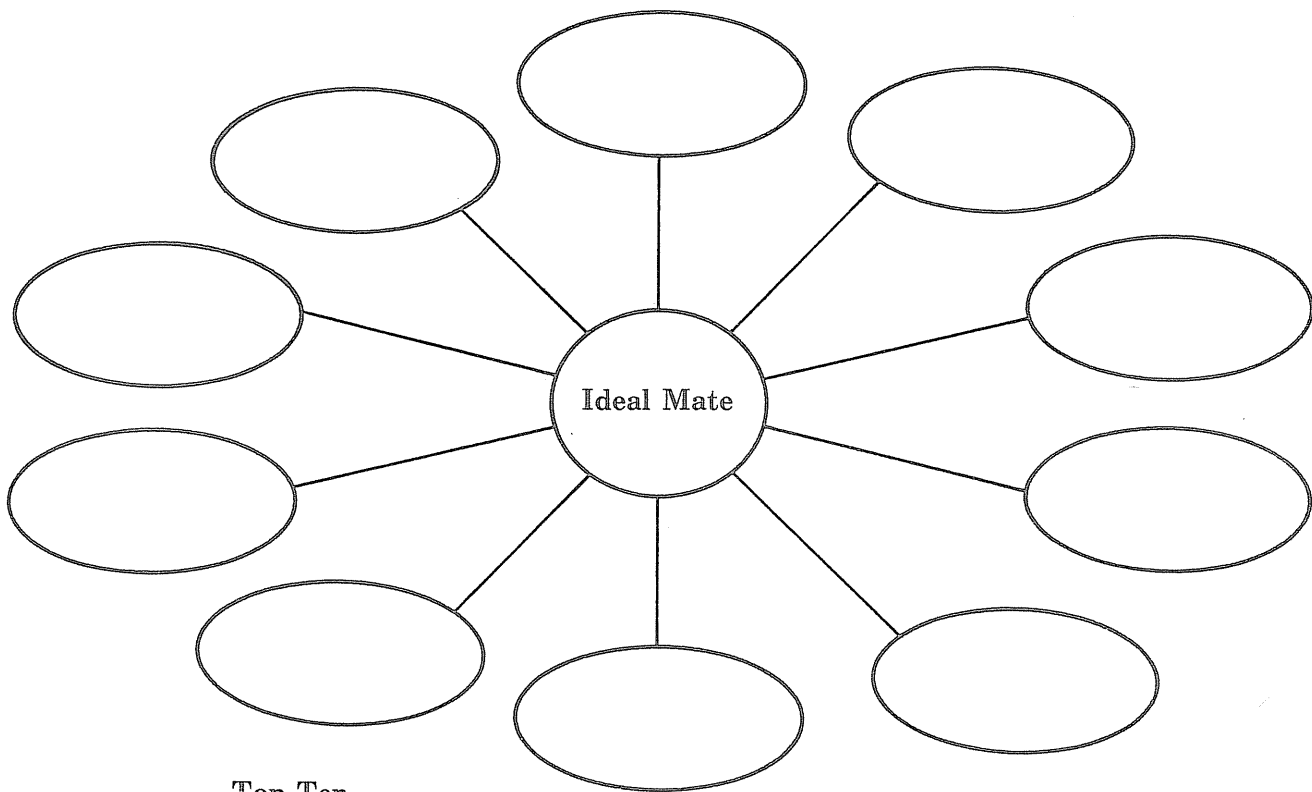
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**Response Log**

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Think about the most important qualities that you would look for in a person you might want to marry. On the diagram below, write phrases that describe your ideal mate. First respond alone. Then share your thoughts with your classmates.

From your list and the class list, choose the ten qualities *you* personally think are most important. Write them in the space provided and rank them in order of importance to you.



**Top Ten**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Romeo	Paris	Sampson
Juliet	Lady Capulet	Frar Lawrence
Prince Escalus	Benvolio	Tybalt
Lord Montague	Nurse	Mercutio

[illegible]

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Romeo and Juliet*  
Student Worksheet #3 • Character Chart  
Distribute Before Reading

**Directions**

The chart below will help you remember the characters in *Romeo and Juliet*. As you read the play, fill in the chart with the character's relationship and with a brief description of his or her character.

Character	Relationship	Personality
Sampson		
Gregory		
Abram		
Tybalt		
Benvolio		
Prince Escalus		
Lord Capulet		
Lady Capulet		
Lord Montague		
Lady Montague		
Romeo		
County Paris		
Nurse		
Juliet		
Mercutio		
Friar Laurence		
Balthasar		
Apothecary		
Friar John		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Romeo and Juliet*  
Student Worksheet #7  
Characterization

**Directions**

We identify with the characters in a play or novel because we have had the same feelings they have. When we share feelings with fictional characters, they seem more real. We hope things will work out for the protagonist; we wish his or her enemies bad luck. For each of the characters in the chart, below, give an example of when they experienced the feelings listed.

Feeling	Romeo	Juliet	Fr. Laurence	Nurse
Frustration				
Anger				
Relief				
Joy				
Fear				
Humiliation				
Loneliness				
Despair				

# Plot Structure of a Tragedy

**Climax or Turning Point:** The highest point of action in the play. Change in the protagonist, who seems now to be following a downward path.



**Rising Action:** Series of events leading up to the climax; usually covers more than one act.



**Falling Action:** Series of events following the climax; the conflict is the essence of the play; most events go against the protagonist.



**Moment of Final Suspense:** Near the end of the play, it begins to look as if things will go the way of the protagonist after all.



**Catastrophe:** The complete downfall of the protagonist, either through death or some other devastating experience.

**Exciting (or Inciting) Force:** Something happens that gets the action moving, usually in the first act.



**Exposition:** The introductory section of a play in which time, place, characters, and situation are presented.



Romeo and Juliet  
Lesson 2  
Handout 3 continued

Structural Element	Main Event or Events
1. Exposition	
2. Exciting Force	
3. Rising Action	
4. Climax	
5. Falling Action	
6. Catastrophe	



## Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

- Act—A main division of a drama. Shakespeare's plays consist of five acts with each act subdivided into scenes.
- Alliteration—The repetition of the same initial sound in two or more consecutive or closely associated words. Example: "Now old desire doth in his deathbed lie."
- Allusion—A reference to a literary or historical person or event to explain a present situation. Allusion from mythology: "She'll not be hit/ With Cupid's arrow. She hath Dian's wit . . ."
- Aside—A brief remark made by a character and intended to be heard by the audience but not by other characters.
- Comic relief—A humorous scene or speech in a serious drama which is meant to provide relief from emotional intensity and, by contrast, to heighten the seriousness of the story.
- Foreshadowing—A hint of what is to come in the story. This is often used to keep the audience in a state of expectancy.
- Imagery—The term used to describe words or phrases that appeal to the five senses. Figurative language may create images, but not all images are figures of speech.
- Irony—A contrast between what is and what appears to be. One type of irony is verbal in which a character says one thing and means another. Another is dramatic irony in which the audience knows what the characters do not.
- Metaphor—A figure of speech that implies or states a comparison between two unlike things which are similar in some way. Unlike similes, metaphors do not use like or as. Example: "It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!"
- Oxymoron—A contrast of two contradictory terms for the sake of emphasis. Example: "A damned saint, an honourable villain."
- Personification—A figure of speech in which human qualities are attributed to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. Example: "Jocund day/ Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops."
- Scene—A small unit of a play in which there is no shift of locale or time.
- Simile—A figure of speech that states a comparison between two essentially unlike things which are similar in one aspect. Similes are introduced by like or as. Example: "She hangs upon the cheek of night/ Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear."
- Soliloquy—A speech given by a character alone on the stage. The purpose of a soliloquy is to let the audience know what the character is thinking and feeling.
- Tragedy—A type of drama of human conflict which ends in defeat and suffering. Often the main character (dignified, noble) has a tragic flaw (weakness of character, wrong judgment) which leads to his or her destruction. Sometimes the conflict is with forces beyond the control of the character—fate, evil in the world.



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## Terms for Drama

An understanding of the drama terms which appear below will be helpful to your students as they read not only *Romeo and Juliet*, but other plays as well. The Plot Structure of a Tragedy which appears on page 8 can be used on the overhead projector or transferred to the board. You may want to refer back to this map as the play progresses and you are able to fill in various parts of the map.

<b>Act</b>	subdivision of a play
<b>Scene</b>	further subdivision of an act (Acts are made up of scenes.)
<b>Comedy</b>	a play that ends happily
<b>Dialogue</b>	conversation of the characters in the play
<b>Tragedy</b>	a play that ends unhappily
<b>Melodrama</b>	a play designed to arouse intense emotion by exaggeration and fast-moving action
<b>Protagonist</b>	the hero or leading character with whom the audience sympathizes
<b>Antagonist</b>	the character who opposes or competes with the protagonist
<b>Properties</b>	all of the stage furnishings, objects, etc. (often shortened to "props")
<b>Pantomime</b>	actions without words or props
<b>Atmosphere</b>	mood or feeling
<b>Theme</b>	important central idea presented by the play
<b>Plot</b>	the chain of events that make up the play
<b>Farce</b>	highly exaggerated humorous play or skit
<b>Motivation</b>	reasons for characters' beliefs or actions
<b>Stage Left</b>	left of the stage from the actor's point of view
<b>Stage Right</b>	right of the stage from the actor's point of view
<b>Upstage</b>	area of the stage away from the footlights
<b>Downstage</b>	area of the stage close to the footlights
<b>Actor</b>	person whose function it is to communicate words and emotions to an audience; he/she assumes the personality of the character
<b>Audience</b>	those who view the play and should be responsive to the action and the feeling or mood portrayed as the actors lead them into the play



Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet has an edge-of-the-seat plot full of murder, love, feuding, and betrayal. Driving this tragic play forward is the fast-paced, witty, and convoluted dialogue of the script. Effectively capturing the audience's attention, Shakespeare has used a number of important literary devices, which serve to amuse, guide, and hypnotize the viewer of this production.

## Puns

A pun is a joke based on the use of a word, or more than one word, that has more than one meaning but the same sound. Mercutio and Romeo often exchange puns with one another in the play:

Mercutio--"Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance."

Romeo--"Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes / With nimble soles; I have a soul of lead..."(I iv 13-5)

Romeo has used the word "sole" when referring to Mercutio's shoes, then made a pun by referring to his own "soul."

## Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing describes when a piece of dialogue or action in a work refers to events that will happen later in the story even though the characters have no prior knowledge such events will occur. In the following quote, Benvolio is consoling Romeo on his loss regarding Rosaline:

Benvolio--"Take thou some new infection to thy eye, / And the rank poison of the old will die" (I ii 49-50)

Here Benvolio unknowingly foreshadows the fact that as soon as Romeo sees Juliet, the "new infection," the "rank poison" of Rosaline dies and he can think only of his new Capulet love.

## Metaphor

A metaphor is a comparison in which an object or person is directly likened to something else that could be completely unrelated. The most famous metaphor in Romeo and Juliet is Romeo's monologue outside the Capulet orchard:

Romeo--"But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks? / It is the east, and Juliet is the sun." (II ii 2-3)

Here, Juliet is metaphorically compared to the sun despite the fact that she has nothing physically in common with a glowing star hundreds of thousands of miles away.

## Personification

Personification occurs when an inanimate object or concept is given the qualities of a person or animal. This is exemplified when Juliet is waiting for her lover, Romeo, to come to her windowsill in the Capulet orchard.

Juliet--"For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night / Whiter than new snow on a raven's back. / Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night" (III ii 18-20)

Obviously, the night does not have wings, nor does it have a brow, but giving it these qualities adds a mystique to Juliet's monologue and a poetic quality to the language.

**Oxymoron**

An oxymoron describes when two juxtaposed words have opposing or very diverse meanings. In the following quotation, Juliet has just learned that Romeo murdered her cousin, Tybalt, and she is venting her feelings of anger at her lover for hurting her family.

Juliet--"Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!" (III ii 77)

When Juliet refers to Romeo as a "beautiful tyrant," she is expressing an oxymoron because the acts of a tyrant will rarely be referred to as beautiful.

**Paradox**

A paradox is a statement or situation with seemingly contradictory or incompatible components. On closer examination, however, the combination of these components is indeed appropriate. For example, see how Juliet describes Romeo in the following quote:

Juliet--"O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!" (III ii 75)

While Juliet knows that Romeo is not a serpent nor does he have a face full of flowers, her use of these descriptions show how paradoxically he is her lover and the murderer of her cousin at the same time.